

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 5-14 are amended. Claim 5 remains in the application. Thus, claims 1-14 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been carefully reviewed and revised in order to correct grammatical and idiomatic errors in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification and abstract are incorporated in the attached substitute specification and abstract. No new matter has been added.

Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the substitute specification and abstract illustrating the changes made to the original specification and abstract.

In item 5 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 5-12 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for being in improper form by depending from multiple dependent claim 3. The Applicant respectfully submits that this objection to claims 5-12 is improper in view of the amendments made to the claims in the Preliminary Amendment submitted with the application on February 24, 2004. In particular, claims 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12 were amended in the Preliminary Amendment in order to remove the multiple dependencies of these claims. Claims 3, 5 and 10 were each amended to depend from claim 1 only, and claims 10 and 12 were each amended to depend from claim 8 only.

The dependency of claims 3, 5, 8, 10 and 12, as originally amended in the Preliminary Amendment, has not been amended herein. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-12 are not in improper form by depending from a multiple dependent claim. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 5-12 under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 8 on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 1-3 and 14 are allowed. Minor editorial amendments were made to claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 in order to improve their U.S. form, and to provide proper antecedent basis for all of the limitations recited therein. The Applicant submits that the revisions to claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14 were not to broaden or narrow the scope of protection for the present invention.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 14, as well as claims 2-12 which depend therefrom, are still clearly in condition for allowance.

In item 7 on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark et al. (U.S. 5,778,225). Without intending to acquiesce to this rejection, claim 13 was amended in order to more clearly illustrate the marked differences between the present invention and the applied reference.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as recited in claim 13, is clearly patentable over Clark et al. for the following reasons.

Claim 13, as amended, recites a data decoding apparatus in which data including raw data, a pointer, and a command is inputted. As recited in claim 13, the command is inputted as a substitute for raw data or a pointer from a data string when a data string as a target string of the command coincided with a data string as a target of the raw data and a data string indicated by the pointer or a combination thereof. As further recited in claim 13, when the data including the raw data, the pointer and the command is inputted to the data decoding apparatus, the data decoding apparatus is operable to execute the command, to return the inputted data to the raw data or the pointer, and to return the raw data or the pointer to a target data string.

Clark et al. discloses a method and system for decompressing multiple compressed bytes in a single machine cycle. In particular, Clark et al. discloses a data processing system having a history buffer 168 for storing previously decompressed data and an output buffer 166 for storing at least N (N being greater than 1) bytes. A group of input tokens is received from an input buffer 154. Clark et al. discloses that each input token is either a raw-byte token or a strong token, where each string token includes a pointer and a length. Clark et al. discloses that decompressed bytes which are taken from each of the raw-byte tokens within the group of input tokens are outputted to the output buffer 166. The system of Clark et al. then determines whether or not each of the pointers in the string tokens points to data which was previously stored in the history buffer 168 or whether or not each of the pointers in the strong tokens points to data within one of the of the raw-token bytes within the group of input tokens which have not yet been stored in the history buffer 168. Clark et al. discloses that for each of the pointers that points to data stored in the history buffer 168, decompressed bytes pointed

to in the history buffer 168 by the pointer and the length are output to the output buffer 166. Further, for each of the pointers that points to data within the raw-byte tokens within the group of input tokens which have not yet been stored in the history buffer, decompressed bytes taken from such raw-byte tokens that are pointed to by the pointer and the length are output to the output buffer 166. Clark et al. discloses that the output buffer 166 is filled once per machine cycle with at least N newly decompressed bytes (see Column 3, lines 15-37, Column 7, lines 45-59, Column 7, line 60 to Column 8, line 8, and Column 9, lines 34-54).

Clark et al., however, clearly does not disclose or suggest a data decoding apparatus in which data including raw data, a pointer, and a command is inputted, where the command is inputted as a substitute for raw data or a pointer from a data string when a data string as a target string of the command coincided with a data string as a target of the raw data and a data string indicated by the pointer or a combination thereof, as recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, Clark et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claim 13. Therefore, claim 13 is clearly not anticipated by Clark et al. since Clark et al. fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 13.

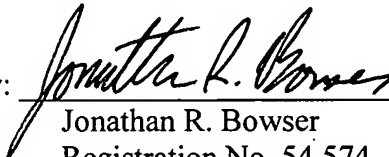
Furthermore, it is submitted that the clear distinctions discussed above are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not have been motivated to modify Clark et al. in such as manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claim 13. Therefore, it is submitted that the claim 13 is clearly allowable over the prior art as applied by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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